

January 8, 2002

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Jim Christiansen, EPA Remedial Project Manager Environmental Protection Agency Information Center 501 Mineral Ave Libby, MT 59923

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

We are aware of the current status of the asbestos contamination remedial project and the pending Superfund designation here in Libby. As the local Job Service Workforce Center, and sole Wagner-Peyser labor exchange operator, we have federally mandated obligations.

Contactors who receive federal funding are required, under federal law (38 USC 2012 and 41 CFR 60-250), to fulfill certain requirements regarding the listing of their job vacancies with a Job Service or through America's Job Bank. They are also required to meet certain requirements in the area of providing hiring preference to veterans.

We would like to work with the EPA in developing an effective process to identify successful contractors, as a first step toward these ends. We would like to arrange a meeting with you and/or your staff regarding the upcoming contract awarding that will be done in conjunction with this remedial project.

Kootenai Job Service staff; Employment Consultants, our Local Veteran's Employment Representative, and myself look forward to working with you and your agency to insure that the contractors involved in this project are aware of their legal requirements in this regard. We also look forward to taking an active role in assisting the contractors in determining their employment needs and in meeting these needs with qualified local employees whenever possible.

Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience to arrange a meeting. My phone number is (406) 293-6282, extension 222.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Again, we look forward to setting up a process that will allow us to meet our federal mandates, educate the contractors to their responsibilities, and thus benefit the contractors involved in the Super Fund clean up. This process would also be beneficial for our local job seekers.

Sincerely.

Mike Bissell, Manager

Kootenai Job Service Workforce Center

417 Mineral Ave, Suite 4

Libby, MT 59923

(406) 293-6282 Extension 222

Cc:

Polly LaTray, DVET State of Montana, Veteran's Employment and Training Services, USDOL

Wendy Keating, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry, State of Montana

Mark Bowlds, Bureau Chief, Field Operations, Workforce Services Division, Department of Labor and Industry